

Message Text

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PAGE 01 THE HA 00331 210848Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 EA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 ACDA-12 CIAE-00
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 EB-08 NRC-05 OES-07
SOE-02 DODE-00 DOE-11 SS-15 SP-02 PM-05 H-01
PA-01 PRS-01 USIA-06 COME-00 LAB-04 SIL-01 AID-05
STR-06 TRSE-00 /153 W
-----098886 211422Z /14

R 201611Z JAN 78
FM AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1915
INFO EC COLLECTIVE
AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
AMEMBASSY PARAMARIBO
USMISSION USNATO
USCINCEUR
USNMR SHAPE
USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L THE HAGUE 0331

USNMR SHAPE FOR POLAD
USCINCEUR FOR POLAD
GENEVA ALSO FOR MTN

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINR, PGOV, NL
SUBJECT: GON POLICY STATEMENT DEBATE

REF: A) THE HAGUE 296 (DTG 191509Z JAN 78) (NOTAL);
B) THE HAGUE 311 (DTG 191540Z JAN 78) (NOTAL)

1. PRIME MINISTER VAN AGT'S CABINET EMERGED UNSCATHED FROM
ITS FIRST GOVERNMENT POLICY DEBATE THIS WEEK. THE LABOR
PARTY OPPOSITION LED BY FORMER PRIME MINISTER DEN UYL FOUND
FEW CONCRETE ITEMS TO ATTACK. CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS (CDA) AND
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LIBERALS (VVD) GAVE SOLID SUPPORT TO THE NEW GOVERNMENT. VAN
AGT PROMISED MORE DETAILED LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS LATER, COVERING
PROFIT SHARING, WORKS COUNCILS AND ECONOMIC STIMULUS. MORE
IMPORTANTLY FOR THE MOMENT, VAN AGT ASSURED THE OPPOSITION
THAT MINIMUM WELFARE PAYMENTS WOULD CONTINUE TO BE LINKED TO
THE COST-OF-LIVING INDEXED MINIMUM WAGE.

2. THE SERIES OF STATEMENTS AND REJOINDERS IN THE HAGUE THIS WEEK SAW OLD PLAYERS GETTING USED TO THEIR NEW ROLES. EVERYONE SEEMED NERVOUS AS VAN AGT'S GOVERNMENT GOT OFF TO A START, BUT THE NEW CABINET ASSUMED ITS NEW ROLE SOMEWHAT MORE SUCCESSFULLY THAN DID THE EX-MINISTERS NOW IN THE OPPOSITION. FORMER PRIME MINISTER DEN UYL, THOUGH FIERY, FAILED TO RUFFLE VAN AGT. CDA FLOOR LEADER AANTJES WAS LACKLUSTER IN PUBLIC BUT IN BACKROOM SESSIONS SKILLFULLY ENGINEERED VVD SUPPORT OF MANY FORMER CDA-LABOR PROGRAMS. VVD FLOOR LEADER RIETKERK MADE HIS MARK AND WILL BE A MAN TO WATCH. AS EXPECTED, SEVERAL RESOLUTIONS PROPOSED BY THE OPPOSITION WERE REJECTED.

3. VAN AGT FURTHER DEFINED NETHERLANDS DEVELOPMENT AID POLICY, SAYING THAT AID WOULD BE CONCENTRATED ON INDONESIA AND SURINAM IN PARTICULAR--TWO FORMER COLONIES.

4. THE NEW GOVERNMENT IS OFF TO A RESPECTABLE START. ITS MOST IMMEDIATE OBSTACLE WILL BE PARLIAMENTARY DEBATE NEXT WEEK ON THE RECENT GON AGREEMENT WITH FRG AND UK TO SUPPLY BRAZIL WITH ENRICHED URANIUM FROM EXPANDED PLANT AT ALMELO (REF B).
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Message Attributes

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